



## AEMH Conference 2006 Hospital Management based on Quality and Safety

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## Nursing Education: one of the cornerstones of Patient Safety

### HISTORY of EFN

EFN (PCN) was set up in 1971 and its creation was linked to the **nursing education, the free movement directives** being drafted by the Commission then.

EFN is the independent voice of the nursing profession and EFN lobby outcomes will effect over 6 million nurses.

Members consist of: the National Nurses Associations (NNA) from all EU Member States and the Council of Europe, the European Specialist groups as Associate members and WHO/ICN/ENSG as observer.

### MISSION of EFN

The EFN shall **strengthen the status and practice of the profession of nursing** and the interests of nurses in the EU & Europe

### How Europe is changing nursing education

Nurses are increasingly mobile and, as a result, will benefit from the greater portability of qualifications and alignment of educational programmes that the Bologna Agreement will in due course provide.

## EFN Position on Bologna Process

- Admission to training institutes should only be possible after finishing secondary school, under the same conditions as those applying to access to university
- The length of the training programme should be sufficient to guarantee the acquisition of specific competencies and shall not be less than three academic years (minimum bachelor level)
- There should be one European professional level of nurses only
- The curriculum should be based on and consist of research, skills, competencies and learning outcomes
- The institutes' Director should be a qualified nurse

## EFN Actions

1. Adopt ICN general nursing profile requirements as a reference framework for nursing education - the initial nursing training curricula need to be reformulated in various Member States
2. EFN is to work with the European bodies to anticipate a new framework of mutual recognition of diplomas, continuing education and Life Long Learning (LLL)
3. Competencies, life long learning and accreditation are major policy concepts to be introduced in our educational systems.

## Influence Emerging Member States

The recommendations of the European Commission evaluation within the Acquis Communautaire and the Technical Assistance Information Exchange mission (TAIEX) are essential to comply with the EU Sectoral Directives.

## Influence Emerging Member States

1. Title "Nurse" instead of "Medical Assistant" (Patient Safety – Patient needs to know who is who in the process of care)
2. Clarification of the roles and responsibilities between the different policy making institutions: the Order, the Ministry of Health, the Trade Unions and the Professional nursing organisation. (Patient Safety – synergies can only provide safety)

## Influence Emerging Member States

4. New Curriculum content needs to have a explicit nursing focus in terms of the material being taught, including models of nursing, philosophies of care, the history and traditions of the nursing profession and nursing leadership. (Patient Safety - modules in patient safety are a core part of health education)

## Influence Emerging Member States

5. The supervision of student nurses in the clinical settings is a condition of complying with the European Nursing Directive and creates the obligation to have student nurses trained in clinical settings by nurses who are responsible for the care of patients in those areas. (Patient Safety strongly correlates with the working conditions of the Registered Nurse, supervising nursing students)

## Influence Emerging Member States

6. The greatest problem facing nurses' is their working ethos. The **nurses are overworked and undeniably underpaid**. Nurses in new Member States are living under the poverty level. A review of the remuneration of nurses is needed to ensure that the monthly salary is not set at a level at which cash payments from patients are an essential part of the income of nurses. (= Patient Safety)

## Conclusions

Academics, regulators, government chief doctor/nurses and professional bodies **need to work together** to develop an enhanced approach that builds from the current list of syllabus content and prescribed hours of clinical and theoretical instruction to **a creative practical competency based alternative which maximises patient safety, optimises resource use and provides a foundation for securing nursing excellence.**

## Conclusions

EFN Statement: "The National Governments/Commission will be very reactive and unable to fulfill **its obligations under public health and patient safety**, especially where the quality of care could be improved **if policy frameworks become out of touch with what the health professions are doing.**"



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